

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 NIC-01

FEA-02 IO-14 INT-08 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03

H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 051430Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2638

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0188

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, XF, XI,MO

SUBJ: ICATU MEETING IN CASABLANCA

1. SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION ARAB TRADE UNIONS (ICATU) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET IN CASABLANCA FEBRUARY 27-28. SPEECHES AND FINAL COMMUNIQUE NO MORE FRIENDLY TOWARDS US THAN IN PAST ALTHOUGH FINAL COMMUNIQUE RELEASED MARCH 3 IGNORES QUESTION ARAB TRADE UNION BOYCOTT US INTERESTS. COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT COMMISSION DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO FINANCE STRUGGLE OF ARAB WORKERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, ADMITS TUNISIAN UGTT TO ICATU, CONDEMNS SITUATION IN SUDAN AND ANNOUNCES CLOSING BEIRUT OFFICE. MEETING DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HARMONIOUS OR PRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION ARAB TRADE UNIONS (ICATU) HELD ANNUAL SESSION IN CASABLANCA
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FEBRUARY 27-28 HOSTED BY UNION MAROCAINE DU TRAVAIL (UMT).

PRESENT WERE DELEGATIONS FROM IRAQ, SYRIA, JORDAN, KUWAIT, BOTH YEMENS, EGYPT, TUNISIA, ALGERIA, AND MOROCCO, AS WELL AS PALESTINIANS AND SEVERAL INTER-ARAB PROFESSIONAL UNIONS. OFFICIAL RELEASES MAKE NO MENTION LIBYANS OR LEBANESE, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND SEVERAL LIBYANS PRESENT. MEETING TIMED SO THAT DELEGATES COULD ALSO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF ARAB LABOR

OFFICE HELD IN RABAT MARCH 2-12.

3. UMT SECGEN BEN SEDDIK MADE OPENING SPEECH IN WHICH HE CALLED FOR "LIBERATION ARAB TERRITORIES USURPED BY ZIONIST OCCUPIER WHICH SUPPORTED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." BEN SEDDIK SUPPORTED USE OF OIL AS WEAPON, AND MADE USUAL CALL FOR "UNITY AND MILITANCY OF ARAB WORKING CLASS." IN REPLY ICATU SECGEN ABDELLATIF BOULTEA THANKED UMT FOR HOSPITALITY AND PLEDGED "WE WILL PURSUE OUR MARCH UNTIL NONE OF OUR TERRITORIES REMAIN UNDER OCCUPATION OF ZIONISTS IN COLLUSION WITH IMPERIALISM."

4. WFTU GENERAL SECRETARY PIERRE GENSOUS, IN MOROCCO FOR ALO CONFERENCE, SPOKE BEFORE ICATU SESSION. GENSOUS UNDERLINED WFTU SUPPORT ARAB CAUSE AND MADE USUAL ATTACK AGAINST "EXPLOITATION, NEO-COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM."

5. FINAL COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED MARCH 3. PREAMBLE STATES MEETING HELD "TO STUDY SITUATION OF ARAB NATION IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST WORLD IMPERIALISM HEADED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM REPRESENTED BY ZIONIST PRESENCE." PREAMBLE CONDEMNS "ZIONIST ENEMY AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT BY FURNISHING FINANCIAL MEANS AND ARMS." AFTER REAFFIRMING WILL OF ARAB WORKERS TO "LIBERATE EVERY INCH OF OCCUPIED ARAB LAND" AND "TO ASSURE RETURN OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO ITS HOMELAND" PREAMBLE SALUTES "VICTORIOUS ARAB ARMIES," "THE FORCES OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION" AND "THE MOROCCAN WORKING CLASS UNDER DIRECTION OF UMT." PREAMBLE EXPRESSED CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT FOR BOUMEDIENE'S PROPOSED COMMODITIES CONFERENCE AND CONDEMNED "IRANIAN AGGRESSION IN IRAQ" AND "SENDING OF IRANIAN TROOPS TO MUSCAT." PREAMBLE CONCLUDES BY SALUTING "RESISTANCE AND HEROIC STRUGGLES" OF ARAB WORKERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

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6. MAIN POINTS IN BODY OF COMMUNIQUE AS FOLLOWS:

A. CENTRAL COMMITTEE "DRAWS ATTENTION TO PROBLEM OF NON-APPLICATION OF DECISIONS." (COMMENT: THIS REFERS TO UNWILLINGNESS OF MEMBER UNIONS TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN CAUSE WITH ANYTHING BUT WORDS. SEE BELOW.)

B. CENTRAL COMMITTEE FORMED COMMISSION TO "DISTRIBUTE FUNDS COMING FROM NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR ELSEWHERE" TO SUPPORT "STRUGGLE OF ARAB WORKERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES." COMMISSION CONSISTS OF ICATU SECGEN BOULTEA AND SECGENS JORDANIAN AND PALESTINIAN UNIONS. CENTRAL COMMITTEE CALLED UPON MEMBERS UNIONS HONOR THEIR PLEDGES IN THIS REGARD.

C. CENTRAL COMMITTEE ACCEPTED UNION GENERALE DES TRAVAILLEURS TUNISIENS (UGTT) AS FULL MEMBER ICATU AND CALLED UPON IT TO "RECONSIDER ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN CONFORMITY WITH ICATU GOALS."

D. CENTRAL COMMITTEE CRITICIZED CURRENT TRADE UNION SITUATION IN SUDAN AND REFUSED RECOGNIZE SUDANESE DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE. ICATU SECRETARIAT WAS CHARGED WITH PREPARING REPORT ON SUDANESE SITUATION IN COORDINATION WITH ARAB LABOR OFFICE. EGYPTIAN DELEGATION EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THIS DECISION.

E. CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECIDED MAINTAIN FREEZE IN RELATIONS WITH ROMANIAN TRADE UNIONS.

F. CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECIDED CLOSE ICATU'S BEIRUT OFFICE. (COMMENT: WE ARE TOLD ICATU SOMEHOW LOST EFFECTIVE CONTROL ITS BEIRUT OFFICE.)

G. CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED CREATION ARAB OFFICE FOR WORKER EDUCATION HEADED BY SECGEN BOULTEA.

H. CENTRAL COMMITTEE FORMED COMMISSION STUDY RELATIONS BETWEEN WORKERS UNIONS AND PROFESSIONAL UNIONS.

I. CENTRAL COMMITTEE REAFFIRMED ITS RECOGNITION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PLO AS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

7. COMMENT: MEETING DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NOTE-WORTHY FOR ITS UNITY. QUESTIONS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS, TUNISIAN INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS, PROBLEMS OF BEIRUT OFFICE AND CONDEMNATION OF SUDANESE WERE ALL CONTROVERSIAL. ALTHOUGH AVOIDED IN COMMUNIQUE, QUESTION ARAB TRADE UNION BOYCOTT US AND WEST GERMAN INTERESTS WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY. WE SUSPECT THAT BEN SEDDIK, WHO OPPOSES ANY SUCH PLAN, AND EGYPTIANS NEUTRALIZED BOYCOTT PROPONENTS. PRIVATE OPINION OF HIGH-LEVEL UMT SOURCE IS THAT "CONFERENCE DIDN'T ACCOMPLISH MUCH."

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